

From the Table to the
Playground:
Practical Applications of Applied
Behavior Analysis in Early Childhood
Environments

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HELLO
my name is

Caitlin



I am...

- A teacher
- An ABA therapist
- Excited to be here!

Find out more & download today's presentation:
www.brightstartei.com

Today we will talk about...

- What is ABA?
- Why ABA?
- Reducing problem behavior
- Increasing communication
- Natural Environment Teaching
- Teaching skills

What is ABA?

applied behavior analysis
is the **systematic** application of
interventions to improve
socially significant behaviors.

Why ABA?

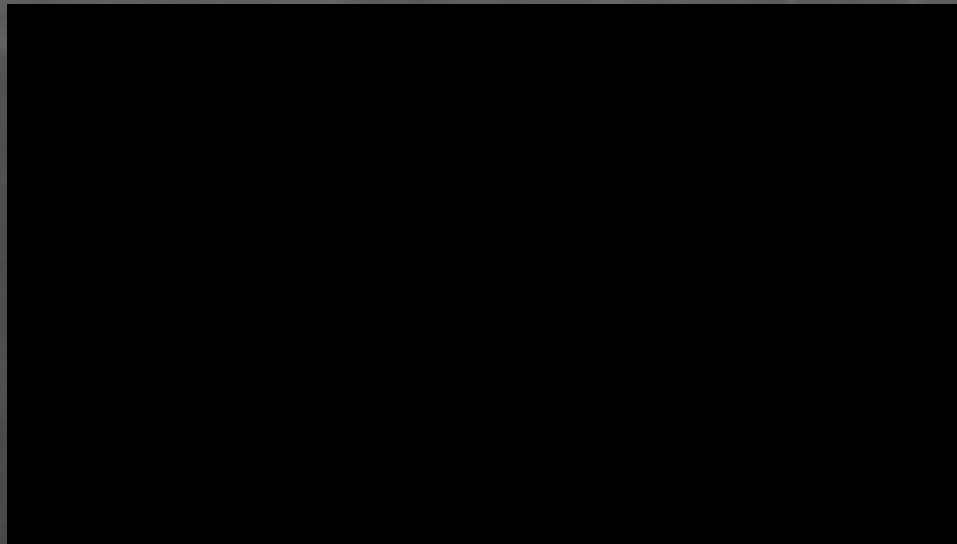
- Most effective treatment for children with autism
- Decreases problem behavior
- Increases communication skills
- Teaches social skills
- Teaches functional/independent skills
- Teaches academic skills

Decreasing Problem Behavior

Check yourself: What are you reinforcing?

What are you NOT reinforcing?

Let's watch Sheldon use positive reinforcement to shape Penny's behavior.



Video Clip: The Big Bang Theory: Season 3, Episode 3

Decreasing Problem Behavior

Teach **functionally equivalent**
replacement behaviors!

- What's the function of the behavior?
 - Escape
 - Avoidance
 - Attention
 - Automatic
 - Gaining access to preferred items
- How can you replace the problem behavior with something more appropriate, but that serves the same function?



Decreasing Problem Behavior

Don't forget the **data!**

- ABC Data
 - Antecedent
 - Behavior
 - Consequence
- Frequency
- Duration

Increasing Communication

- Mand training
- Mand = Request
- Children with autism or developmental disabilities tend to have maladaptive mands (SIB, aggression, tantrums, etc.).
- Mand training can decrease problem behavior!

Increasing Communication

Mand training teaches
children that talking or
signing is *valuable*...it gets
them what they want!
Manding also opens the door
to other types of verbal
behavior!

Increasing Communication

When teaching mands...

- Decide: vocal or sign?
- Confirm motivation
- Contrive hundreds per day!
- Prompt and fade prompts
 - Child declares motivation
 - Teacher prompts mand
 - If the child mands, item is delivered
 - If child does not mand, repeat up to two more times.
 - Still no independent mand? Deliver a small amount of item while saying the name of the item.



Increasing Communication

Don't forget the **data!**

- Write down mands for x amount of time daily
- Keep track of prompt level
- Look at percentage prompted vs percentage spontaneous
- Goal: more spontaneous mands!

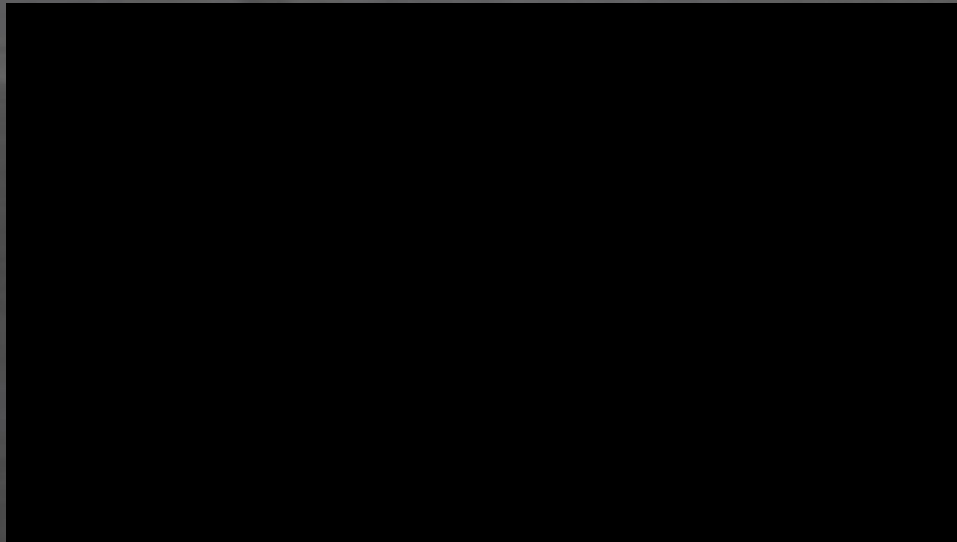
Natural Environment Teaching

Make sure you are teaching skills and promoting generalization during play time! Mix things up and teach across the verbal operants while playing:

- Motor Imitation: "Do this"
- Vocal Imitation: "Say..."
- Tact: "What is it?"
- Receptive: "Give me..."
- Intraverbal: fill-ins, wh-questions...

Natural Environment Teaching

Let's watch Emily and Max in NET.



Video Clip: Carbone Clinic



Natural Environment Teaching

Don't forget the **data**!

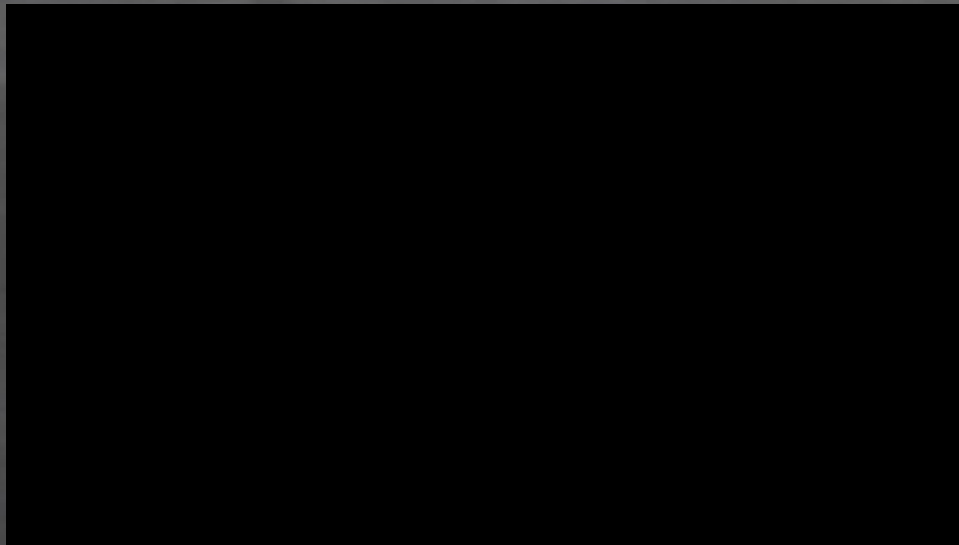
- Keep it simple!
- Tally the number of MI, VI, tact, receptive, and intraverbals
- Make sure you aren't focusing only on one area!

Teaching Skills

- Choosing appropriate skills targets
- ABLLS vs VB-MAPP
- Discrete Trial Instruction
- Don't let them learn it wrong: teach errorlessly!

Teaching Skills

Let's watch Emily and Vincent during discrete trial instruction.



Video Clip: Carbone Clinic

Teaching Skills

Don't forget the **data**!

- Track skills taught
 - Date Introduced
 - Date Mastered
 - Date Retained
- Set mastery criteria
- Graph skills cumulatively



Q&A!